

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06348 01 OF 03 142302Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /060 W

----- 111907

R 141840Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8780

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 6348

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION - UK

REF: A. USNATO 5443

B. LONDON 14299

C. USNATO 6234, PARA 9

SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 12 DRC REVIEWED UK FORCE PLANS AS PRESENTED IN UK REPLY TO DPQ(74). UK TEAM OFFERED NO NEW INFORMATION ON EXPECTED OUTCOME OF ONGOING DEFENSE REVIEW, WHICH CHAIRMAN DESCRIBED AS APPARENTLY MOST RADICAL REVIEW EVER UNDERTAKEN BY MOD. UK DRC REP MADE GENERAL STATEMENT ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AND CALLED ATTENTION TO DANGER OF CONFUSING MINISTERS BY PRODUCING TOO MANY REPORTS WITH ASSORTED PRIORITIES AND THUS DENYING NATO AND COUNTRIES THE CLEAR POLITICAL DIRECTION NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTING FORCE IMPROVEMENTS. DRC REVIEW OF UK PLANS WAS LIVELY AND WIDE- RANGING. IN CONCLUDING, CHAIRMAN NOTED UNCERTAINTIES LOOMING OVER UK DEFENSE PLANS AND SAID NATO WILL WATCH WITH GREAT INTEREST

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 06348 01 OF 03 142302Z

UNFOLDING OF DEFENSE REVIEW. END SUMMARY.

1. DRC ON AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 12 CONDUCTED MULTILATERAL REVIEW OF UK FORCE PLANS AS PRESENTED INDPQ(74). IN OPENING,

CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS NOTED UK REPLY TO DPQ(74) ONLY REPORTS FORCE PLANS FOR FIRST YEAR OF 1975-1979 PLANNING PERIOD BECAUSE UK IS IN MIDDLE OF WHAT IS APPARENTLY MOST RADICAL DEFENSE REVIEW IT HAS EVER UNDERTAKEN; THAT LABOR PARTY IS COMMITTED TO REDUCING DEFENSE EXPENDITURES PROGRESSIVELY TOWARD A LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH EFFORT OF ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES (ADDING SARCASTICALLY UK HAS NOT IDENTIFIED WHICH ALLY); THAT UK MAKES A NUCLEAR CONTRIBUTION TO NATO; AND THAT NATO REMAINS THE MAIN PRIORITY FOR DEFENSE RESOURCES. HUMPHREYS ALSO DREW ATTENTION, INTER ALIA, TO FOLLOWING PROBLEMS: UK, AGAIST TREND TO MAXIMIZE CONVENTIONAL OPTION, MAINTAINS ONLY A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY FOR 8-INCH HOWITZERS; WAR RESERVES, WHICH APPARENTLY ARE BASED ON NATIONAL RATHER THAN NATO STATES, EXPECTED TO RUN-DOWN SOMEWHAT; SLOW DOWN IN SHIP CONSTRUCTION; AND DELAY IN INTRODUCTION OF BUCCANEER SQUADRONS. ON PLUS SIDE, HUMPHREYS CITED RELATIVELY HIGH SHARE OF DEFENSE BUDGET FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT; IMPROVED ARRIVAL TIME (FROM 7 TO 5 DAYS) FOR BAOR REINFORCEMENTS; PROGRESS IN AIRCRAFT SHELTER PROGRAM DESPITE RATHER LATE START; ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN UK AND HOST NATIONS FOR RECEPTION OF UK REINFORCEMENTS; AND EXCELLENT RAPID RUNWAY REPAIR SYSTEM, WHICH UK PLANS TO DEMONSTRATE TO NATO IN NEAR FUTURE AT A UK BASE IN FRG. IN CLOSING HIS INTRODUCTION, CHAIRMAN CITED UK PROMISE TO CONSULT FULLY WITH NATO ON EMERGING DEFENSE REVIEW AND TO TAKE FINAL DECISIONS ONLY AFTER FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ALLIANCE; NATO IS NOW IN A STATE OF "SUSPENDED JUDGEMENT" REGARDING UK PLANS AND NATO MUST SEE HOW UK RECONCILES INTENTION TO RETAIN NATO AS FIRST DEFENSE PRIORITY WITH INTENTION TO REDUCE DEFENSE SPENDING.

2. MC REP (GEN TOMMASINI) NOTED IMPORTANT PAST AND CURRENT UK CONTRIBUTION TO NATO AND HOPED UK WOULD CONTINUE TO ATTACH HIGH IMPORTANCE TO NATO IN ALLOCATING ITS DEFENSE RESOURCES. SHAPE REP (COL HOOTEN) SAID IT IS DIFFICULT TO PLAN FORCES ON BASIS OF INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION PROVIDED IN UK DPQ(74) REPLY. SACLAN REP (CAPT MAYO) URGED UK TO EMPHASIZE MARITIME ASPECTS IN ITS ONGOING DEFENSE REVIEW AND
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 06348 01 OF 03 142302Z

THUS MAINTAIN ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE AT SEA AND ITS CONTRIBUTION

TO SACLAN.

CINCHAN REP (CAPT BURLAGE), WHILE APPRECIATIVE OF CURRENT UK ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS, CITED GRAVE CONCERN OVER TRANSFER OF ALL UK MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT (MPA) TO SACLAN AND WELCOMED HIGH PRIORITY ATTACHED TO PROTECTION OF OIL AND GAS RIGS.

3. UK DRC REP (MACDONALD), WHO HEADED UK TEAM OF EXPERTS, UNDERLINED THAT NATO REMAINS THE LINCH-PIN OF BRITISH SECURITY; THAT UK APPRECIATED PROBLEMS POSED BY ONGOING DEFENSE REVIEW FOR SOUND FORWARD PLANNING; AND STRESSED HE WOULD NOT

COMMENT ON REPORT ON PROGRESS OF DEFENSE REVIEW, OTHER THAN TO SAY: GENERAL ELECTION IN UK HAD DELAYED PUBLICATION OF DEFENSE WHITE PAPER UNTIL EARLY 1975, THAT UK COMMITMENT TO CONSULT IN A TIMELY FASHION IS AT FOREFRONT OF CONSIDERATIONS, AND UK HOPES TO BEGIN CONSULTATION AT END OF NOVEMBER OR EARLY IN DECEMBER.

4. UK REP ADDED DEFENSE REVIEW IS NOT THE EXCLUSIVE DEFENSE BUSINESS IN LONDON AND THAT HIS AUTHORITIES LOOK FORWARD TO FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS AT THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL, PARTICULARLY IN KEY ELEMENTS OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. UK REP SAID MINISTERS WOULD CONSIDER PRODUCT OF DRC EFFORTS ON GUIDANCE AGAINST BACKGROUND OF THE MILITARY APPRECIATION AND THAT US PAPER ON "LONG RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT FOR NATO" CONSTITUTES A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO DEBATE. HE NOTED US PAPER CONTAINS NUMBER OF POINTS TO WHICH ALLIANCE MUST GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, AND US PAPER DEAWNS TOGETHER IN A HELPFUL WAY MANY DIVERGENT ACTIVITIES ALREADY BEING PURSUED IN SEPARATE NATO FORA. HE SAID MEMBERS ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ON NECESSITY TO ENSURE MOST EFFECTIVE USE IS MADE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND HIS AUTHORITIES ARE DETERMINED TO PLAY THEIR PART IN THIS REGARD. HOWEVER, IN PURSUING THESE TASKS IT IS IMPORTANT TO SET CLEAR PRIORITIES (UK WELCOMES EMPHASIS ON KEY ELEMENTS) SO THAT DIRECTION GIVEN TO NATO MACHINERY IN THE FORCE PLANNING PROCESS WILL BE SOUNDLY BASED. AT SAME TIME, NATO SHOULD BE AWARE OF DANGER OF IDIFFUSING ITS EFFORTS AND OF MEASURING ACHIEVEMENTS BY NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS PRODUCED FOR MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION. HE
SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 06348 01 OF 03 142302Z

SAID THAT AD-70, B SIC ISSUES, WORK ON RATIONALIZATION, AS WELL AS MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE ALL ADDRESS PRIORITIES, THUS TENDING TO CONFUSE THE NATO FORCE PLANNING PROCESS. THIS COULD DENY NATO AND COUNTRIES CLEAR POLITICAL DIRECTION NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTING FORCE IMPROVEMENTS. IN CONSLUDING, UK REP STRESSED IMPORTANCE UK ATTACHES TO CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE FORCE PLANNING EXERCISE.

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 06348 02 OF 03 150006Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 3 USNATO 6348

5. US REP (CLINARD)(WHO WAS WITHOUT REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS) NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF ONGOING DEFENSE REVIEW IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASK PRECISE QUESTIONS, VOICED APPROVAL OF HIGH PERCENTAGE OF DEFENSE BUDGET FOR EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION AND HOPED DEFENSE REVIEW WOULD NOT RETARD RE-EQUIPMENT SCHEDULES, PARTICULARLY FOR LANCE AND BASIC ISSUES FORCE IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS PLANNED PROGRESS IN NATO-ARMOR AND EW FIELDS. UK REP SAID MAINTENANCE OF HIGH PERCENT OF BUDGET FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR IMPROVING CAPABILITIES AND TROOP MORAL, BUT STRESSED HE COULD NOT ANTICIPATE EFFECT OF DEFENSE REVIEW ON EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION SCHEDULES. IN LENGTHY STATEMENT, IN WHICH HE EMPHASIZED SERIOUS UK EW EFFORT, MACDONALD NOTED THAT UK DOES A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF R&D ON ALL ASPECTS OF EW, THAT ALL THREE SERVICES ARE EQUIPPED WITH MODERN EW SYSTEMS, AND THAT RAF OPERATES A CANBERRA SQUADRON EXCLUSIVELY FOR ECM TRAINING.

6. NORWEGIAN REP (LEINE) ASKED IF BRITISH DEFENSE STRUCTURE IS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO REDUCE PERSONNEL AND THUS CUT COSTS OVER A RELATIVELY SHORT TWO-TO-THREE YEAR PERIOD. MACDONALD
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 06348 02 OF 03 150006Z

REPLIED THAT ANSWER IS CONTINGENT ON FACTORS SUCH AS, ON ONE HAND, FACT THAT REGULARS WITH A MINIMUM THREE YEAR ENGAGEMENT OFFER LESS FLEXIBILITY THAN 12 MONTH CONSCRIPTS REGARDING "TURNING THE PERSONNEL TAP OFF AND ON"; ON OTHER HAND LONGER TERM REGULARS OFFER MORE SCOPE FOR RETRAINING PERSONNEL FOR NEW TASKS. US REP NOTED UNCERTAIN RECRUITING CLIMATE AND ASKED IF THIS AFFECTED PARTICULAR RANKS E.E., OFFICERS. UK EXPERT REPLIED THAT FUTURE RECRUITING TRENDS ARE OBVIOUSLY UNPREDICTABLE AND THAT IN PAST FOR NO APPARENT REASON GOOD RECRUITING PERIODS ALWAYS HAVE FOLLOWED BAD PERIODS AND VICE VERSA. EXPERT ADDED CURRENT RECRUITING TREND IS UPWARD, PARTICULARLY FOR YOUNG RECRUITS, WHO OFTEN LEARN TRADES AND FORM BASE FOR 20 YEARS SERVICE PERSONNEL.
IN RESPONSE TO NETHERLANDS REP (CARSTEN) QUESTION ON PROJECTED DECREASE IN TOTAL MILITARY PERSONNEL BETWEEN 1973 AND 1975, EXPERT CLAIMED DECREASE CAUSED PARTIALLY BY RECRUITING PROBLEMS AND PARTIALLY BY STREAMLINING OF SUPPORT SERVICES.

7. CANADIAN REP (CO SHEFFIELD) COMMENDED CURRENT UK CONTRIBUTION TO NATO DEFENSE AND UK EMPHASIS ON EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT AND WONDERED IF INCREASED PERSONNEL COSTS RESULTING FROM MAINTAINING AN ALL-VOLUNTEER FORCE WOULD NOT IMPACT ADVERSELY ON EQUIPMENT SPENDING; HE ALSO ASKED IF FUNDS TO IMPROVE "CONDITIONS OF MILITARY SERVICE" ARE PROVIDED WITHOUT SERIOUS OPOSITION FROM PARLIAMENT OR TREASURY. UK FINANCIAL EXPERT RECOGNIZED PROBLEM IN MAINTAINING PROPER RATIO BETWEEN PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT COSTS AND NOTED INFLATIONARY PAY INCREASES ARE COVERED ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY, BUT CONDITONS OF SERVICE INCREASES ARE NOT GRANTED AUTOMATICALLY EITHER BY TREASURY OR PARLIAMENT. HE UNDERLINED UK IS ACUTELY AWARE THAT IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IMPACT HEAVIL Y ON LATER DEFENSE BUDGETS.

8. NETHERLANDS REP ASKED: A) IF REDUCED MOBILIZATION AND MOVEMENT TIMES (FROM 7 TO 5 DAYS) FOR BAOR REINFORCEMENTS WAS PAPER IMPROVEMENT OR PROVEN IN REALITY AND B) IF UK HAD A PROGRAM SIMILAR TO US REFORGER PROGRAM. ARMY EXPERT REPLIED THAT IN A SENSE MOBILIZATION NEVER TESTED FULLY UNTIL YOU GO TO WAR; HOWEVER, COMPUTER STUDIES HAD IDENT-
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 06348 02 OF 03 150006Z

IFIED UNDER-USED AND OVER-USED FACILITIES AND THUS ILLUSTRATED WHERE AND HOW TO REDUCE TRANSPORTATION BOTTLE-NECKS. AIR FORCE EXPERT ADDED COMPUTER STUDIES ALSO IDENTIFIED OVERLOADED AIR RECEPTION FACILITIES. ARMY EXPERT SAID EVERY MOBILIZATION UNIT THAT HAS A ROLE IN THE BAOR TAINS IN THE FRG EVERY THREE YEARS AND USUALLY SOMEPLACE ELSE IN THE WORLD OR DURING NATO EXERCISES ON AN ANNUAL BASIS; HENCE EVERY UNIT IS TESTED "VIRTUALLY" EVERY YEAR. HE SAID ONE OF MAIN PROBLEMS IS DURING EXERCISES ONLY ONE OF APPROXIMATELY 20 MOBILIZATION PLANS IS TESTED AT A TIME, AND UK IS TRYING TO RESOLVE PROBLEM THROUGH PRACTICING CONCURRENT UNIT MOVEMENT.

9. IN RESPONSE TO FRG REP'S (CAPT WELZ) QUESTION ON SIZE OF MAJOR BAOR UNITS DEPLOYED TO NORTHERN IRELAND, ARMY EXPERT SAID APPROXIMATELY 500 MEN PER UNIT ARE SENT TO NORTHERN IRELAND WITH 200 TO 300 MEN LEFT BEHIND IN FRG TO MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT; HE STRESSED THIS PRACTICE REDUCED STRAIN ON BAOR FORCES BUT UN CYPRUS COMMITMENT WAS CAUSING ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS.

10. DANISH REP (MAJ BJORKE) NOTED APPROXIMATELY 86 THOUSAND OUT OF A TOTAL OF 166 THOUSAND ARMY PERSONNEL SERVE IN NATO ASSIGNED OR EARMARKED UNITS AND OTHER FOCES FOR NATO. HE ASKED "WHERE ARE THE OTHER 80 THOUSAND HIDING?". ARMY EXPERT NOTED THAT 80 THOUSAND CONSISTED OF FORCES NEEDED TO MAINTAIN UK COMMITMENT OUTSIDE OF NATO AREA, INCLUDING GHURKA TROOPS, DANISH REP ALSO ASKED HOW UK INTENDED TO CARRY OUT CONSULTATION

PROCESS ON DEFENSE REVIEW WITH NATO. UK REP SAID, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, THAT HE EXPECTED LONDON TO FOLLOW SAME PRESENTATION PROCEDURE THAT DUTCH, FRG AND ITALIANS HAD UTILIZED IN INTRODUCING CHANGES IN THEIR DEFENSE STRUCTURES. CHAIRMAN REFERRED TO CINCHAN REPS STATEMENT ON HIGH PRIORITY UK ATTACHES TO PROTECTION OF OIL AND GAS RIGS AND ASKED IF UK PLANS ADDRESSED TERRORIST AS WELL AS CONVENTIONAL MILITARY THREATS. EXPERT SAID UK IS STUDYING A RANGE OF THREATS AND NOTED PROTECTION QUESTION IS COMPLICATED BECAUSE IT TOUCHES ON INTERESTS OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 06348 03 OF 03 142344Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

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SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /060 W

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R 141840Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8782

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S E C R E T SECTION 3 OF 3 USNATO 6348

11. BELGIAN REP (COL TAYMANS) ASKED IF UK PLANS SAME ROLE FOR JAGUAR AIRCRAFT AS PANTHOM HAD PERFORMED AND IF IT PLANS COMBINED DEPLOYMENT OF BLOODHOUND AND RAPIER. AIR FORCE EXPERT UNDERLINED AIR FORCE RESHUFFLE BY NOTING THAT PHANTOMS ARE REPLACING LIGHTNINGS IN AIR DEFENSE ROLE AND THAT JAGUARS WILL FULFILL ALL THE SAME TOLES THAT PHANTOM DID, WITH PROVISIO JAGUAR IS ONE SEATER AIRCRAFT AS CONTRASTED WITH TWO SEATER PHANTOM. AS COMPENSATION, 72 JAGUARS WILL ULTIMATELY REPLACE 40 PHANTOMS. REGARDING SAM CAPABILITY, EXPERS SAID BLOODHOUND, WHICH IS DESIGNED FOR AREA DEFENSE, IS BEING UTILIZED IN POINT DEFENSE ROLE, AND INTRODUCTION OF MONDERN RAPIER SYSTEM IN 1975 AT AIRFIELDS IN FRG WILL ENHANCE POINT DEFENSE. IN REPLY TO QUESTION FROM US REP, EXPERT SAID RAPIER WILL HAVE AN ALL-WEATHER CAPABILITY BY 1977.

12. NETHERLANDS REP ASKED IF THERE WERE OTHER THAN TECHNICAL

REASONS WHY UK COULD NOT INSTALL A FIXED UNDER WATER
SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IN THE STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR. NAVY
EXPERT SAID EVEN IF UK COULD OVERCOME POLITICAL
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 06348 03 OF 03 142344Z

DIFFICULTIES, SHIPPING DENSITY IN STRAITS MADE IT
IMPOSSIBLE TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM WHICH COULD ADEQUATELY
DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SIGNATURES SHIPS AND SUBS.
CHAIRMAN ADDED IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER
THIS SYSTEM APPEARS IN NEXT SET OF NATO FORCE GOALS.

13. ARMY EXPERT, REFERRING TO CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTORY
REMARKS, SAID UK HAD NOT PROVIDED 8-INCH HOWITZER WITH
CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY BECAUSE: (A) UK ONLY HAS TWELVE
8-INCH GUNS (THUS HIGH RISK OF LOSING NUCLEAR CAPABILITY
THROUGH EMPLOYMENT IN CONVENTIONAL ROLE) AND (B) CON-
VERSION WOULD NOT BE COST EFFECTIVE. CHAIRMAN SAID UK
DOCTRINE DIFFERS FROM THAT OF ITS ALLIES; EXPERT REJOINED
THAT THIS WAS BECAUSE UK ONLY HAD TWELVE GUNS. HUMPHREYS
SAID HE BELIEVED BELGIUM AND NETHERLANDS HAD FEWER GUNS THAN
UK BUT THEIR GUNS HAD DUAL CAPABILITY. IN CONCLUDING, UK

REP SAID THIS WAS A STRAIGHTFORWARD QUESTION OF RESOURCE
PRIORITY.

14. CHAIRMAN SAID AT CURRENT HOUR CHANCELLOR OF THE
EXCHEQUER HEALEY WAS SPEAKING TO PARLIAMENT ABOUT PUBLIC
EXPENDITURES, INCLUDING DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, AND THIS
ONLY HIGHTENED UNCERTAINTIES LOOMING OVER UK DEFENSE PLANS.
HE SAID UK PLANS ONCE OFFERED STABILITY BUT THERE IS NOT
STABILITY WHEN THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO MAKE LARGE CUTS
(AT LEAST ON THE ORDER OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION POUNDS
PER YEAR) IN DEFENSE SPENDING. IN CONCLUDING, CHAIRMAN SAID

NATO WOULD WATCH WITH GREAT INTEREST UNFOLDING OF UK
DEFENSE REVIEW.
PEREZ.

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO06348
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741185/abbryymj.tel
Line Count: 365
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. USNATO 5443 B. LONDON 14299 C. USNATO 6234, PARA 9
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <28-Oct-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRC MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION - UK
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005